

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Page 1

Committee Members Present

Jessa Barnard
Yacouba Jacob Bogre
Lisa Draper
Mike Fisher
Jordan Giaconia
Dale Hackett
Rebecca Heintz
Sharon Henault
Zachary Hozid
Gladys Konstantin
Helen Labun
Erin Maguire
Gustavo Mercado Muñiz
Kirsten Murphy
John Schultz
Sarah Teel
Julie Tessler

DVHA Staff Present

Zachary Goss
Cory Gustafson
Sandi Hoffman
Nissa James
Shannon Mead
Jessica Ploesser
Adaline Strumolo
Molly Sweeney

Other Interested Parties

Sebastian Arduengo
Susan Aranoff
Kelly Barnier
Kate Blanford
Jordan Estey
Steve McRae
Megan Mitchell
Taylor Morrow
Betty Morse
Sarah Peterson
Alexandra Sosnowski
Sarah Truckle

*This meeting was held by conference call only.

Documents

- Advisory Committee 10_26_20 Agenda.pdf
- Advisory Committee PPT 10_26_2020.pdf
- *Proposed Recommendations_Coverage Health Care Services Delivered Audio-Only Post-PHE_DRAFT 10.23.2020.pdf*

All are posted to the [Vermont Health Connect website](#).

Convene

Erin Maguire chaired the meeting.

Roll Call, Introductions and Quorum

Zack Goss, Health Care Training and Communication Manager (DVHA)
Please see Advisory Committee PPT 10_26_2020.pdf (slides 2-3)

The Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Committee welcomed seven new members. A full list of Committee Members can be found on the [Vermont Health Connect website](#).

A quorum was present.

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee (Board)
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Page 2

Approval of Minutes

September 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Waiver: Annual Post-Award Forum

Ashley Berliner, Director of Healthcare Policy (DVHA)

[Please click here for more details regarding the Global Commitment to Health Demonstration Waiver.](#)

- Committee Member Comments and Discussion
 - Verbal comments offered by Kirsten Murphy, Executive Director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council. Written comments will be subsequently submitted. (Update: Written comments were received 10/27/20 and have been attached for Advisory Committee members. The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Vermont Health Access will prepare a joint response by mid-November).
- 1115 Waiver Description

For more information see: <https://humanservices.vermont.gov/about-us/medicaid-administration/global-commitment-health-1115-waiver>

Committee members requested:

- Recent report regarding the State's Global Commitment investments and proximity to the budget neutrality cap.
- List of talking points related to how the 1115 waiver impacts DVHA, services delivered, consumers, etc.
- Improved Global Commitment Waiver annual communication to the Advisory Committee.

Committee Discussion: Proposed Recommendations for Coverage of Health Care Services Delivered by Telephone (Post-Public Health Emergency)

Nissa James, Health Care Director (DVHA)

Please see Advisory Committee PPT 10_26_2020.pdf (slides 6-8)

Please see Proposed Recommendations_Coverage Health Care Services Delivered Audio-Only Post-PHE_DRAFT 10.23.2020.pdf

- The Department reviewed the proposed recommendations for VT Medicaid's coverage of health care services delivered by telephone after the public health emergency ends with the Committee to ensure the recommendations as developed were in alignment with the Committee's feedback. The recommendations will be included as an Appendix within the legislative report that the Department of Financial Regulation is required to submit on/before December 1, 2020, in accordance with Act 140 (2020).
- The Vermont Medical Society requested a revision to the final recommendation related to required training for health care providers for the purposes of clarity; the Department will amend its recommendation given the Vermont Medical Society's request was reasonable and did not garner concern from members of the Advisory Committee. The proposed recommendation will now read,

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee (Board)
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Page 3

“Qualified providers offering telehealth services (including audio-only) must complete training as necessary for ensuring the standard of care is met when delivering services through telehealth. “

- Written comments or feedback is encouraged and should be submitted to Zachary.Goss@Vermont.gov by October 30th.
- Sample telehealth communication tool recently released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services appears valuable and will be reviewed at the December meeting (*slide 8*) due to time constraints.

Open Enrollment

Molly Sweeney, Healthcare Eligibility and Enrollment Director (DVHA)

Please see Advisory Committee PPT 10_26_2020.pdf (slides 9-14)

- The Department reviewed the efforts completed to date in preparation for Open Enrollment beginning November 1st.
- The Customer Support Center hours of operation were reviewed, noting the weekend hours (12/12 & 12/13) and extended hours of operation on the final days of Open Enrollment (12/14 & 12/15).
- Planned staffing was reviewed as well as the communication plan for social media and virtual events.

Commissioner's Update

Cory Gustafson, Commissioner (DVHA)

- Recommendation of agenda item for the Advisory Committee's November meeting: Review the results from the 2019 performance year of the Vermont Medicaid Next Generation program (Medicaid's participation in the All-Payer Model Agreement) and receive Advisory Committee feedback.
- Budget Update: budget year was not an ordinary budget process
 - Continuation of state fiscal year 2020 budget in June 2020 while the Administration and Legislature finalized the first quarter budget for state fiscal year 2021 in June.
 - In September 2020, the Legislature returned to complete the state fiscal year 2021 budget and is now adjourned until January 2021.
 - The COVID-19 public health emergency and associated economic crisis results in many undetermined variables to consider in the state fiscal year 2022 budget.
 - Assumptions for the state fiscal year 2022 budget:
 - Less State revenue
 - Less Federal revenue
 - Different federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) scenarios will impact the State's Medicaid spend. The Commissioner welcomes Committee members to submit suggestions or feedback about the way in which the State prioritizes Medicaid funding.
 - The Committee agreed and requested to have "Budget Priorities" be a topic of conversation for the Advisory Committee's November meeting.

Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee (Board)
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2020

Page 4

Public Comment

No public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03PM.

Next Meetings

November 30, 2020

January 25, 2021

Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Site: Meetings will be convened through *Microsoft Teams* due to the State of Emergency produced by COVID-19 until further notice.

Please visit the Advisory Committee website for up-to-date information:

http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials

Additional Information:

<https://dvha.vermont.gov/covid-19>